

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 6, 13, 16, and 20 without prejudice.

Amend claims 5, 9, 15, and 19 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows:

5. (Twice Amended) A method for the manufacture of a copper microalloy

comprising:

(a) mixing a copper alloy containing S, Se, As, Sb, Bi, Sn, Zn, Ni, Fe, Ag or Te impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm, with lead to yield a microalloy having a final concentration of at least 200 weight ppm of lead, wherein the copper alloy contains Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, and Ag impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm; and

(b) continuous casting the microalloy.

9. (Twice Amended) A method for the manufacture of a copper microalloy containing lead, comprising:

(a) mixing a copper alloy containing (1) S, Se, As, Sb, Bi, Sn, Zn, Ni, Fe, Ag, or Te impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm and (2) less than 80 weight ppm of the impurities Zn, Ag, Cd, Sb, Ni, Fe, Bi, Sn and S with lead to yield a microalloy having at least 200 weight ppm of lead, wherein the copper alloy contains Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, and Ag impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm;

(b) continuous casting the microalloy from step (a); and

(c) heating the microalloy from step (b) at 550-650° C for 5-600 seconds to decrease its half-softening temperature, annealing temperature, and recrystallization temperature to below 200° C.

15. (Amended) A method for the manufacture of a copper microalloy

comprising:

D3 (a) mixing a copper alloy consisting essentially of copper and one or more of S, Se, As, Sb, Bi, Sn, Zn, Ni, Fe, Ag and Te impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm, with lead to yield a microalloy having a final concentration of at least 200 weight ppm of lead, wherein the copper alloy contains Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, and Ag impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm; and

(b) continuous casting the microalloy.

D4 19. (Amended) A method for the manufacture of a copper microalloy

comprising:

(a) mixing a copper alloy consisting of copper and one or more of S, Se, As, Sb, Bi, Sn, Zn, Ni, Fe, Ag and Te impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm, with lead to yield a microalloy having a final concentration of at least 200 weight ppm of lead, wherein the copper alloy contains Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, and Ag impurities in amounts of the order of tens of weight ppm; and

(b) continuous casting the microalloy.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 6, 13, 16, and 20 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 5, 9, 15, and 19 have been amended to recite that the casting is continuous casting and that the copper alloy contains Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, and Ag